

MISSIONARY

REPORT AND MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

LOUISIANA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH;

HELD IN HOMER, LA.,

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 2, 3, 4 and 5, 1863.

REV. JOHN C. KEENER, D. D., PRESIDENT.

MOUNT LEBANON, LA.

PRINTED FOR THE CONFERENCE AT THE LA. BAPTIST OFFICE.

1864.

~~It~~ It being understood that the present Minutes were to be published in a very condensed form, the undersigned Committee, appointed to prepare the same for publication, present the following as the result of their labors.

P. M. GOODWYN,
R. A. NEW.

MISSIONS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

OF THE

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA CONFERENCE.

In view of the unsettled state of the country, we have not heard from the German Missions in New Orleans. This is also true with respect to our Missionaries sent out by the Parent Board to China. The colored missions in our own bounds have been very much interfered with, and a large number of missions have been broken up in consequence of the depredations of the Federals.

Many (white) Mission, was served by Rev. A. W. Moore. It has 135 members, 78 probationers, 2 local elders, 8 local preachers, 14 appointments and \$665 paid for the support of the missionary, and is in a prosperous condition.

North Rapides Mission, colored, was served by Rev. Uriah Whatley. It has 90 members, 3 probationers and \$285 paid to the missionary. This mission has been nearly broken up by removals during the past year.

Dorcheat Mission, colored, was served a portion of the year by Rev. A. J. Waters. Two churches organized, 14 members, 1 probationer and \$50 paid to the missionary, who reports a wide field open to the missionary.

"Methodism," has been styled "Christianity in Earnest;" and hence has been one of the most efficient instrumentalities employed in the salvation of men, and has now become the practical and successful Archimedes of the Church; taking the Bible for its lever, the atonement of Christ for its fulcrum and the power of the Holy Spirit for its strength; he is actually lifting up the moral world to God. To day, like the traveler, who has crossed the tiresome plain and labored up the steep and rugged ascen of the mountain, we stand on a lofty and commanding eminence. The mists of the plain and the fogs of the mountain-side are all below our feet.

The sun of righteousness, which has been rising upon the world for more than eighteen hundred years, has never spread over mankind a more healing wing; and while we feel its vivifying and animating influences, we look back upon all the way the Lord hath led us with adoring gratitude and wonder; we look forward, and we are filled with rapture as the future spreads out before us an illimitable prospect of gathering and brightening glories.

As the tide of civilization has rolled westward, the first wave of emigration has scarcely broken upon any hill-side or forest-barrier, before it has been succeeded by the wave of Methodism, bearing on its bosom the ark of safety. The consequence is, that it has distributed in rich profusion its sacred blessings throughout the length and breadth of the land, and hundreds of thousands in this vast country, are blessing God for its soul-saving benefits; so that

from her thousands of consecrated altars, grateful incense is at this hour ascending to heaven.

Far in the wilderness its fires are now burning and its light shining to warm and direct and save the red man. Many an Indian is glowing with its love, and many a negro cabin is vocal with its praise. And wherever the Gospel is preached in its purity and spirituality, pagan altars will crumble to the dust, the voice of prayer is heard, barbarous rites cease, men burst the iron hoops of moral oppression; conscience, enlightened and made tender, asserts her supremacy, a correct standard of right and wrong is acknowledged, a sense of unbending equity is produced, wholesome laws are enacted; a high-toned morality, schooled in the practice of enobling virtues, prevails; vice and anarchy are held in check; public opinion, corrected by a standard so infallible, is girded with a power almost omnipotent and arrayed on the side of virtue; idolatry with its venerable and bloody rites retires before the religion of the upper skies. The charities of the gospel abound, darkness recedes, the true light shines, ameliorations make the desert sing, the refinements of life flourish, churches, school-houses, colleges and hospitals rise and fill the land' sending their benign influence and shedding eternal lustre on the human race, a higher civilization is superinduced, and a happy people send up to heaven their acclamations of praise.

The church must be up and doing. We cannot stand still. To stand still is the destiny of a mile-post or of a finger-board. And while the times and blockade have prevented our sending additional missionaries to China and other foreign nations, a wide field is now open among our soldiers at home.—Missionaries are the messengers of the churches, and we must send them forth, sustain them by our prayers and contributions, and supply the increasing demand for men which these fields require.

Let the spiritual torpor which now curses the church be removed—let universal life re-animate our preachers and laity, and converts will greatly multiply and revivals spread, peace will be soon restored to our bleeding and distressed country, and Zion will yet appear clothed in the beauty and majesty of her lord. "For Zion's sake, then, hold not your peace; for Jerusalem's sake, rest not, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

REYNOLDS TRIPPETT, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. E. GOODWYN, TREASURER.

In account with the Louisiana Conference Missionary Society.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.

Centerville Circuit,.....	\$93 00
Columbia Circuit,.....	223 50
North Rapides Mission,.....	285 00—\$601 50

HOMER DISTRICT.

Farmerville Circuit,.....	\$500 00
North Bossier Circuit,.....	170 00
South Bossier Circuit,.....	332 00—902 00

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.

Caddo Circuit,.....	\$1,005 00
Mansfield,.....	120 00
DeSoto Circuit,.....	54 00
Pleasant Hill,.....	1,496 00—\$2,675 00

FROM OTHER SOURCES.

C. H. Walden, proceeds of 1 bale cotton, su b. 1861, ..	\$70 00
Annual contrib'n of members, 79 50—	\$149 50

RECAPITULATION.

Alexandria District,.....	\$601 50	
Homer District, ...	902 00	
Shreveport District, ...	2675 00	
From other sources, ...	149 50	
Total from Districts, &c.....		\$4,328 00
Anniversary at Homer, viz: Rev. Dr. J. C. Keener, Samuel Mc-Ree, Col. James Berry, Dr. D. A. James, T. W. Briscoe, T. M. Wafer, Major Maddux, D. A. Reed, Mrs J. C. Blackman, J. D. Dansby, W. H. Maxey, Norman Trezevant, Mrs Josephine Grigsby, Major Hayward, Judge Scarborough, W. S. Parham and Rev. E. M. Marvin \$100 each,.....		
	\$1,700 00	
Dr. Phillips, Rev. W. H. Moss, G. W. Price, J. M. Thomasson, Rev. J. A. Miller and Mrs. M. Smith \$50 each.....	300 00	
From various persons for life membership and public collection, 1,201 75—	\$3,201 75	
Cash in hand last year,.....	28 00—	\$7,557 73
CONTRA.		
By amount paid Missionary on South Bossier Circuit,.....	\$166 00	
“ “ “ “ on North Rapides Mission,.....	285 00	
“ Cash paid J. C. Keener, Assistant Treasurer,.....	7,106 75—	\$7,557 73

OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Rev. THOS. B. WHITE, President.

Rev. P. M. GOODWYN, Vice President.	Rev. W. G. McGAUGHEY, Director.
“ REYNOLDS TRIPPETT, Secretary.	“ B. F. ALEXANDER, “
“ A. E. GOODWYN, Treasurer.	“ JOHN A. MILLER, “
“ BENJ. F. WHITE, Director.	“ WM. D. SHEA, “

The following preamble and resolutions were passed unanimously :

Whereas, It has been and still is impracticable to convene the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and it is difficult to communicate by letter or otherwise with our venerable father, the Bishop of the church.

Be it resolved, That we elect J. C. Keener, delegate, and H. N. McTyeire alternate, to represent the Louisiana Annual Conference at the next meeting of the Bishops, to be held in April next, agreeably to their call.

2. That the office and authority of the President of this Conference continue in force until our next session.

3. That we recommend J. C. Keener to devote his time and energies to the promotion of the spiritual welfare of the army of Louisiana, and that the Missionary Committee make provision for his support.

4. That we request him to appoint such brethren to labor for the spiritual welfare of the soldiers as he may deem expedient.

5. That we recommend the Missionary Committee to authorize the President of the Conference, to draw upon the Assistant General Treasurer at New Orleans, or the Treasurer of the Conference Missionary Society, for such amounts as may be necessary to aid in the support of those members of the Conference who may at any time hereafter be appointed to the work in the army; provided that the amount appropriated to each family do not exceed the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars.

6. That we will, during the year, raise collections for the support of the army work in all our charges.

MINUTES.

QUESTION 1.—Who are admitted on trial?

ANSWER.—Alanson W. Moore.

Q. 2.—Who remain on trial?

A.—Matthew D. Thomasson, J. W. Hearne and Henry L. Green.

Q. 3.—Who are admitted into full connection?

A.—Charles W. Carter, Edwin W. Yancey.

Q. 4.—Who are readmitted?

A.—None.

Q. 5.—Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?

A.—Wm. C. Haislip, from the Ouachita Conference.

Q. 6.—Who are the Deacons of one year?

A.—Henry O. White, Thos. B. Baldwin, Seaborn J. Graves, Jas. T. Fontaine, C. W. Hodge, John F. DeWitt, Henry B. Frazee, Dabney P. Cullen, John C. Faulk and William H. Moss.

Q. 7.—What traveling preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A.—Chas. W. Carter, was elected but not ordained.

Q. 8.—What local preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A.—Andrew J. Waters, was elected but not ordained.

Q. 9.—What travelling preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

A.—Edwin W. Yancey, was elected but not ordained.

Q. 10.—What local preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

A.—N. M. Skipworth, was elected but not ordained.

Q. 11.—Who have located this year?

A.—None.

Q. 12.—Who are Supernumerary?

A.—P. H. Dieffenwierth and Thos. J. Lacy.

Q. 13.—Who are Superannuated?

A.—Thos. Samford, David Kinnear, Henry C. Thweatt. Samuel Armstrong, Joel Sanders and John C. Reed.

Q. 14.—What preachers have died during the year?

A.—William J. McFarland.

Rev. WM. J. MCFARLAND, the subject of this memoir, closed his eyes in death in Homer, La., on the 26th of April, 1863, of hemorrhage of the lungs. His last end was peace. He was born in Haywood county, Tennessee, January 21st, 1827. He had, during his early life, the benefit of the pious example of religious parents. On the 12th February, 1850, having professed religion in the sixteenth year of his age, he was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and during the same year he was united in marriage to Miss Parilla King, who still survives him.

In November, 1851 he joined the Memphis Conference on probation. He labored with great acceptability his first year, on the Dresden Circuit. In 1853 he was on the Clinton Circuit, where his labors were blessed with a gracious revival of religion. In 1854 he was in charge of the Paducah Mission. In 1855 he traveled the Ma'rid Bend Circuit, where he endeared himself to the people. In 1856 he was on the Salem Circuit. In consequence of the feeble health of his wife, he was led to seek a healthier location in

a more southern latitude. By the influence of his friends he was induced to transfer to the Ouachita Conference, and during the year 1857 he traveled the Centerpoint Circuit where he had a prosperous year. In 1858 he was on the Brownsville Circuit; and in 1859 he labored on the Blue Bayou Circuit. At the close of that year he was induced to move his field of labor further south; and, connecting himself with the Louisiana Conference, was appointed to Waterproof station, where, in 1860, he labored acceptably to his charge. In 1861 he was in charge of Bartholomew Circuit, where he was very successful; and, at the earnest solicitation of his charge, he was returned to the same field of labor for the year 1862, where his name will ever live in the affections of the people.

For the year 1863 he was appointed to the Homer Circuit. He reached his work in good time and commenced his labors with his accustomed zeal and energy; but his health soon failed, and in consequence of much exposure to the inclemency of the weather in trying to keep up his appointments during the winter, he was seized with an attack of Pneumonia from which he never recovered entirely. It was thought by some of his friends, that the death of his little daughter, which occurred on the 29th of November, previous to his own death, had much to do in shortening his days. He was but slowly recovering from his previous attack—had preached but a few times—had preached that day in Homer with unusual liberty and pathos, much to the comfort and edification of his hearers. Many of his charge remarked, that he bore upon his face that day a sweet and unearthly smile. His wife says, that he possessed during the day an unusually happy flow of spirits, making it to her one of the happy days of an Itinerant's life, fully remunerating her for the labors and sacrifices of her past life. His text and the chapter from which it was taken, then the sermon and all the circumstances which followed, are singularly interesting. "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know ye all among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. Wherefore, I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men; for I have not shunned to declare unto all the counsel of God."

He spoke in reading these words and in preaching, like an inspired Apostle, as if God had given him a presentiment of his change, not to another field of labor, but to his reward in heaven. May his farewell address, as it fell from his almost dying lips, warn and counsel his charges of other years and his ministerial brethren who survive him.

Our deceased brother was eminently a useful man. He was an obliging neighbor, a fast and unwavering friend, a valuable citizen, an affectionate husband, and an indulgent father. His heart was a constant overflowing fountain of benevolence. In all the phases of life and character, he was pure and blameless. As a man, no one in good conscience dare say, that he was ever injured by this brother. He was circumspect in all his intercourse with the world. As a minister of the Gospel, he was earnest and sincere—of one purpose—of one work. He was scarcely ever known to disappoint a congregation till the commencement of his last illness; he was prompt in the discharge of all the duties of a Methodist preacher. He never sought nor shunned responsibility—he was a man of firmness and decision. Though he may not be considered as belonging to that class of men, who by their overpowering eloquence fascinate and sweep the masses before them, yet, when he had passed through a year's labor, a lasting impression for good was left on the minds of his people. He never left his charge in a worse condition than he found it; but as many will testify, in an improved and healthier state. From all that may be seen of his past useful labors, he was a preacher of more than ordinary worth, and this Conference has lost one of its most valuable members. May the Lord throw the mantle of our brother upon another to take his place in the field; and may the Angel of the Lord encamp around about his wife and four little children, and guide them into ways of usefulness and everlasting life.

W. C. YOUNG.

Q. 15.—Are all the preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

A.—Their names were called over one by one, and their characters were examined and passed.

Q. 16.—What is the number of preachers and members in the several Circuits, Stations and Missions of the Conference?

	WHITE.		COL'D.		Local Preach's		WHITE.		COL'D.		Local Preach's
	Members,	Prob'ns	Members,	Prob'ns			Members,	Prob'ns	Members,	Prob'ns	
<i>Opelousas District.</i>											
Washington, ...	50	5	20	5							
<i>Alexandria Dist.</i>											
Evergreen and Big Cane	80	8									
Simmsport, ...	61										
Columbia, ...	167	2	40	1							
Centerville, ...	119	4	13	7	1						
<i>Bastrop District.</i>	427	14	53	8	1						
Bastrop, ...	65	17	22	24							
Jefferson, ...	56	13		10							
<i>Homer District.</i>	121	30	22	124							
Homer, ...	359	84	187	110	4						
Minden, ...	178	77	43	27							
Farmerville, ...	396	99	106	72	6						
Ouachita, ...	332	12	15	3	5						
Sparta, ...	202	90	100								
North Bossier, ...	84	12	80								
South Bossier, ...	138	62	412	124							
	1684	436	937	346	15						
<i>Shreveport Dist.</i>											
DeSoto, ...	96	26									
Mausfield, ...	94	13	50	20	2						
Pleasant Hill, ...	150	5	100	70	5						
Red River, ...	143	10	96	59	3						
	483	99	246	140	10						
<i>Tensas District.</i>											
Tensas Circuit and Mis.	72				2						
Winnsboro, ...	213	89	39								
Delhi, ...	60	75	26	12	1						
	345	164	65	12	3						
RECAPITULATION.											
Opelousas District, ...	50	5	20	5							
Alexandria District, ..	427	14	53	8	1						
Bastrop District, ...	121	30	22	124							
Homer District, ...	1684	436	937	346	15						
Shreveport District, ...	483	99	246	140	10						
Tensas District, ...	345	164	65	12	3						
	3110	748	343	625	29						

The above statistics are all that were reported to the Secretary of the Conference. This table includes only about one-third of the Circuits, Stations and Missions belonging to the Conference.

Q. 17.—What amounts are necessary to meet the CLAIMS of the Superannuated Preachers, the Widows and Orphans of Preachers and the Bishops' apportionment?

A.—\$——.

Q. 18.—What has been collected on the foregoing accounts, and how has it been applied?

ANSWER.—

Notes given heretofore, paid at this Conference, ...	\$318 00
Collected this year, ...	634 00—\$1,002 00
APPLIED:	
David Kinnear, ...	\$148 00
Orphans of W. H. Turnley, ...	65 00
Orphans of Thos. H. Foster, ...	25 00
Orphans of Samuel Hays, ...	50 00
Orphans of B. C. Stegall, ...	100 00
Thos. Sanford, ...	134 00
T. J. Lacy, ...	134 00
H. C. Tweatt, ...	159 00
Bishop's apportionment, ...	250 00—\$1,065 00

WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND BISHOPS' PER CENT.

Resolved, That the Conference declare the Widows', Orphans' and Bishops' per cent. for 1864 to be FOUR PER CENT.

Quarterage Claims, Total Allowance, Total Receipts, Widows' and Orphans' Per Cent.

		QUARTER CLAIM.	TOTAL ALLOWANCE.	TOTAL RECEIPTS.	PER CENT PAID.
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT.....	JNO C. KEENER, P. E.	\$	\$2,000 00	\$ 150 00	\$ 4 50
OPELOUSAS DISTRICT.....					
Washington	B. F. Alexander.....	150 00	475 00	133 50	4 00
	as Chaplain in army			560 00	15 50
		\$ 150 00	\$ 475 00	\$ 693 50	19 50
ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT.....	A. E. GOODWYN, P. E.	350 00	\$1,000 00	\$ 562 50	\$ 17 00
Alexandria	W. E. M. Liofield.....			1,500 00	24 00
Rapides Circuit and Mission..	Uriah Watley.....			285 00	9 00
Evergreen and Big Cane.....	F. White.....		800 00	200 00	6 00
Columbia.....	E. W. Yancy		700 00	657 87	20 00
Simmsport.....	J. F. Scurlock.....	150 00		80 00	2 40
	as Chaplain in army			173 00	5 10
		\$ 500 00	\$2,500 00	\$3,360 37	\$ 83 50
BASTROP DISTRICT.....	J. A. IVY, P. E.....	\$ 300 00	\$ 850 00	\$ 225 00	\$ 7 50
Bastrop	C. W. Carter.....		1,000 00	1,000 00	30 00
Plantersville	J. C. Reed.....			946 00	28 00
Plantersville	J. C. Faulk.....			400 00	12 00
Jefferson Mission	J. L. Wright.....		1,200 0	1,200 00	36 00
		\$ 300 00	\$3,050 00	\$3,871 00	\$ 113 50
HOMER DISTRICT.....	S. S. SCOTT, P. E.....	\$	\$	\$1,200 00	\$ 36 00
Homer	W. J. McFarland		1,200 00	1,200 00	
Homer	J. A. Miller			859 00	26 00
Minden.....	P. L. Henderson.....			1,200 00	36 00
Farmerville	W. D. Stayton.....		800 00	800 00	24 00
Ouachita	P. M. Goodwyn.....	230 00	850 00	781 50	23 00
Vernon.....	W. P. Kimball.....				14 00
Sparta.....	J. H. Bout	300 00	700 00	700 00	21 00
North Bossier.....	W. H. Moss.....			850 00	25 00
South Bossier.....	W. D. Shea.....	325 00		790 00	21 00
		\$ 855 00	\$3,550 00	\$7,431 50	\$ 226 00
SHREVEPORT DISTRICT.....					
Caddo.....	S. J. Hawkins			1,000 00	30 00
DeSoto.....	J. Fulton.....			600 00	18 00
Mansfield.....	J. Landrum.....	150 00		620 00	18 00
Pleasant Hill.....	R. Parvin.....	300 00		900 00	27 00
Natchitoches Mission.....	J. Pipes.....			215 00	6 00
Manny.....	A. W. Moore			665 00	20 00
Red River.....	Baxter Clegg.....			925 00	27 00
		\$ 450 00	\$	\$4,925 00	\$ 146 00

Quarterage Claims, Total Allowance, Total Receipts, and Widows' and Orphans' Per Cent.

		QUARTER CLAIM.	TOTAL ALLOWANCE	TOTAL RECEIPTS.	PER CENT PAID.
TENSAS DISTRICT.....	T. B. WHITE, P. E.	\$.....	\$ 1,825 00	\$ 288 00	\$ 25 00
Tensas Circuit and Mission.....	W. G. McGaughey.....			412 00	12 00
Winsboro.....	J. C. Potts.....		1,000 00	1,000 00	36 00
Ion.....	N. A. Cravens.....		1,200 00	103 00	15 00
Delhi.....	T. J. Upton.....			125 00	5 00
		\$.....	\$ 4,025 00	\$ 2,328 00	\$ 93 00
RECAPITULATION.					
New Orleans District.....		\$.....	\$ 2,000 00	\$ 150 00	\$ 4 50
Orelonasas.....		15 00	475 00	693 50	19 50
Alexandria.....		500 00	2,500 00	3,360 37	83 50
Basrop.....		300 00	3,450 00	3,871 00	113 50
Homer.....		850 00	3,550 00	7,431 50	226 00
Shreveport.....		450 00		4,920 00	146 00
Tensas.....			4,025 00	2,328 00	93 00
Total.....		\$2,555 00	\$10,690 00	\$22,759 37	\$84 00

NOTE.—To economise space, only the names of those preachers who reported their claims, receipts, etc., are given in the above table.

Q. 19.—What is the action of the Conference on the subject of Education?

A.—The following report from the Committee was adopted:

Nene of our literary institutions, except Homer College, have sent to this body a formal report. We have heard nothing of Centenary College. Pierce and Paine College is in about the same condition as last year. Professor Stacy was expected to have opened the Preparatory Department last October, but he has failed. Homer College alone is represented to the Conference through a Board of Trustees. "The Trustees of Homer College, feeling the need of a concentrated influence, request the appointment of the following gentlemen Trustees, in place of others either dead, removed or living so far off as never to assist in the councils of the Board, viz: Rev. Joseph T. Davidson, Geo. W. Price, Wm. W. Arbuckle, Michael Callahan, Wm. L. Phillips, John L. Garrett, Washington B. Nicholson, Joshua Willis, Marshall S. Kinn-brew, Jas. C. Baker, G. O. W. Mattox, Stephen W. Davis, J. W. Hays, D. A. James and Sam'l S. Scott, *vice* Rev. R. Randle, Jesse Smith, Felix Lewis, B. L. Defrees, Martin McLeroy, Rev. Joel Sanders, John Simmons, Wm. Hardy, B. W. Pearce, Wm. Oliver, John Ray, & m. Parham, Rev. W. B. Doty, Willie Littlejohn and C. G. Young." The Committee recommend that the gentlemen above named be made Trustees.

It is much to be regretted that so little has been done for education in the past two years. If more is not done there will be great damage to the social and religious interests of our country. The Committee recommend that every member of this Conference does feel his responsibility to encourage, by every practicable means, the cause of education in his work—that he labor to encourage schools every where for the training of our children.

The following gentlemen were elected Trustees of Mansfield Female College, viz: James M. Thomasson, Rev. Wm. E. Doty, John C. Keener, Lious Parker, Sam'l J. Hawkins, Baxter Clegg, Nehemiah A. Cravens, Sam'l Armstrong, Sam'l B. Suratt, Sam'l S. Scott, B. F. Alexander, John Pipes, Philip L. Henderson, Reynolds Trippett, Thos. B. Baldwin, Wm. C. Young, A. E. Goodwyn, Jesse Fulton, S. J. Greening, Tatum Fullilove, James Fullilove, J. W. McLeroy, George A. Sleet and A. M. Campbell.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS.

Fast Day.

Resolved, That the first Friday in February, 1864, be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer for peace, and that we meet in our respective churches for that purpose.

Seat of next Conference.

MINDEN, CLAIBORNE PARISH, LA

Resolved, That in case the country should be overrun by the enemy, so as to prevent our next session being held at Minden, the President of the Conference be empowered to convene the Conference at such place as may be practicable.

Conference Sermon.

Rev. Linus Parker was appointed to preach next Conference Sermon, and Samuel J. Hawkins as alternate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Resolved, That the Sabbath School is the great nursery of the church, and must be perpetuated.

Resolved, That each one of us will, early in the coming year, preach to our people on the subject of Sabbath Schools, and do all we can to organize and perpetuate their interest.

The reported statistics of this year are imperfect. In 1861 there were 98 schools, 622 officers and teachers, 3,913 scholars, 24,147 volumes in library, 1,415 visitors taken, \$1,556 65 received. This year there are reported only 10 schools, 79 officers and teachers, 410 scholars, 2,150 books, and \$10 received. This great falling off in figures from former years is owing mainly to our national troubles, in consequence of which but a small portion of our work can at present be heard from.

The statistics are so exceedingly meagre that the committee to prepare the minutes for publication deem it proper to omit the table usually given, showing the statistics from Stations, Circuits and Missions.

ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

Resolved, That we will co-operate with the Agents of the Confederate Bible Society who may be sent in the bounds of our Conference.

CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEES.

On Missions,.....	THOS. B. WHITE.
On Education,.....	BAXTER CLEGG.
On Sunday Schools,.....	P. L. HENDERSON.
On Church Publications, ...	B. F. ALEXANDER.
On Bible Cause,.....	REYNOLDS TRIPPETT.
On Ministerial Support,.....	WM. D. SHEA.

The Louisiana Annual Conference greets with Christian love the membership of the Churches under its care :

DEARLY BELOVED! Endeared to you in the peaceful bonds of Christ, we have shared with you in the cares and privations of the past year. This unholy and unnatural war has driven many of you from your homes, from the comforts and pleasant associations of your youth and age into strange and distant places. Your sacrifice of property and ease evidence your high and just appreciation of the principles of civil and religious liberty; and the blood of your noble fathers, husbands and sons has maintained and consecrated the possession of all that is dear to life. "Endure as seeing Him who is invisible." The God of our fathers will assuredly hear your prayer. "They trusted in Him and were not confounded." Wherever your resting place may be, there build an altar, and at that altar gather your children and servants, and hold up the Government and the armies of your country.— "The stars in their course fought against Sisera." We exhort all to attend upon the Ministry of the Word and the ordinances of the Lord's house constantly and regularly. Do not remain out of church fellowship. Be bold to make a good profession of your faith, that infidelity may be abashed—that you may strengthen and advance the cause of Christ.

The land groans under the covetousness and extortion which abounds everywhere, and many good men have fallen into temptation and a snare, and thereby into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. Flee these things. "The love of money is the root of all evil." Why should you err from the faith or pierce yourself through with many sorrows? The country is filled with widows and orphans whose cries and tears have come before the Lord. In all the offices of love imitate Him who has enjoined upon us to visit the sick, to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, for they stand to our charities the representatives of the Saviour.

Beloved brethren, let us cultivate the spirit of love and meekness; give no place to wrath or malice. Let us repent of our sins; let us humble ourselves before God; let us lift up holy hands without wrath and doubting, that it may please him to avert the evil, to drive back and dispel forever this horrid cloud of death which hangs over our once fair land.

God has been pleased to bless the preaching of the word during the past year to the conversion of many souls. In the army thousands have found Christ, and the praises of God resound through the camps of the Confederacy. In those circuits and stations which have been supplied with ministers many souls have been added to the church. Let us thank God that he has remembered us in the day of our trial, and that a period of blood and fire has been a time of the most gracious outpouring of the Holy Ghost. We exhort those of you who are in the field to put on the whole armour of God, and to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. The sustaining power of the doctrines of the Gospel will bring you safely through the long years of war to the ultimate triumph of the Christian patriot, and establish upon an immovable foundation the Confederate Government. May the peace of God which passeth all understanding keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus!

LOUISIANA FREE CONFERENCE.

COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION

AND COURSE OF STUDY FOR 1864.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

Committee—A. E. GOODWYN and B. F. ALEXANDER.

STUDIES: *Class of First Year*—English Grammar; Hymn Book; Composition.

STUDIES: *Class of Second Year*—Hymn Book; Quackenboss' Advanced Course of Composition, Rhetoric and Composition.

STUDIES: *Class of Third Year*—Hymn Book; Whately's Rhetoric, Essay or Sermon; Reference to Vinet's Pastoral Theology.

STUDIES: *Class of Fourth Year*—Hymn Book; Whately's Logic; Sermon.

BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

Committee—R. J. HARP and R. TRIPPETT.

STUDIES: *Class of First Year*—Bible, historical and biographical parts, with reference to Watson's Biblical and Theological Dictionary, enlarged, with new Biblical Atlas and Preachers' Text-Book.

STUDIES: *Class of Second Year*—Bible, as to the institutions of Christianity, with reference to Watson's Dictionary.

STUDIES: *Class of Third Year*—Bible, as to doctrines, with reference to Watson's Dictionary.

STUDIES: *Class of Fourth Year*—Bible generally, with reference to Watson's Dictionary.

DOCTRINAL AND CONTROVERSIAL THEOLOGY.

Committee—BAXTER CLEGG and S. B. SURATT.

STUDIES: *Class of First Year*—Vol. I of Wesley's Sermons; Watson's Institutes, Part III; Theological Compend.

STUDIES: *Class of Second Year*—Vol. II of Wesley's Sermons; Smith's Elements of Divinity; Watson's Institutes, Part IV.

STUDIES: *Class of Third Year*—Wesley's Sermons, Vol. III; Watson's Institutes, Part II.

STUDIES: *Class of Fourth Year*—Wesley's Sermons, Vol. IV; Rivers' Elements of Moral Philosophy; Watson's Institutes, Part I.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY AND CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Committee—S. J. HAWKINS and SAM'L ARMSTRONG.

STUDIES: *Class of First Year*—Discipline; Clarke's Preachers' Manual.

STUDIES: *Class of Second Year*—Discipline, with reference to Henkle's Analysis; Watson's Life of Wesley, and Observations on Southey.

STUDIES: *Class of Third Year*—Discipline.

STUDIES: *Class of Fourth Year*—Discipline; Powell on Succession; Ruter's Church History.

UNDER-GRADUATES.

CLASS OF THE FIRST YEAR—Alanson W. Moore.

CLASS OF THE SECOND YEAR—Mathew D. Thomasson, J. W. Hearne and Henry L. Green.

CLASS OF THE THIRD YEAR—Charles W. Carter.

CLASS OF THE FOURTH YEAR—John C. Faulk, Henry O. White, Thos. B. Baldwin, Seaborn J. Graves, James T. Fontaine, C. W. Hodge, John F. DeWitt, Dabney P. Cullen and Wm. H. Moss.

Committee for Examination of Candidates for Admission on Trial: JOHN C. KEENER and LEWIS A. REED.

"All candidates for admission on Trial into the Traveling Connection shall, in addition to their examination before the Quarterly Conference, as required by the present form of Discipline, be examined by a committee of the Annual Conference on the ordinary branches of an English Education, of their acquaintance with which they shall give satisfactory evidence previous to admission"—*Action of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, in Session of 1858.*

GERMAN UNDER-GRADUATES:

Resolved, That those German preachers who now are or may hereafter be received on trial shall be required to give satisfaction to the Conference on the course of study in the English language, as recommended by the Bishops.

TIME OF EXAMINATION.

Resolved, That the classes to be examined be required to appear before the Committee of Examination, at the seat of Conference, at 9 o'clock, A. M., on the Monday preceding the opening of the Conference; and in case they fail to do so, without satisfactory excuse for non-attendance at the required time and place, they shall be continued in the same class another year.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

Resolved, That all the candidates for admission into the Conference be required, at the time of their reception, to furnish the Secretary with a written statement, setting forth the date and place of their birth, their parentage, the time of their conversion, and when and where they were licensed to preach; and that the same be filed with the Records of the Conference.

Resolved, That all brethren becoming members of the Conference, either by transfer or re-admission into the Traveling Connection, be requested to furnish a similar statement.

APPOINTMENTS.

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT—JOHN C. KEENER, P. E.

Carondelet street, ...	Joseph B. Walker.
Felicity street, ...	Linus Parker.
Moreau street, ...	Arthur W. Smith.
First German Mission, ...	John A. Paul y.
Second " "	To be supplied.
Third " "	" " "
Jefferson City, ...	John F. DeWitt.
Algiers and Gretna, ...	Mathew D. Thomas on.
Laurel street and Carrollton, ...	Joshua F. Scarlock,
	" " " Chaplain in Army.
Baton Rouge, ...	Wm. C. Young.
Plaquemine, ...	James L. Chapman.
Gros Tete, ...	To be supplied.
New Orleans Christian Advocate, ...	Clayton C. Gillespie, Editor.
	" " " Col. in Army.
Nashville Christian Advocate, ...	H. N. McTyeire, Editor.
Professor Centenary College, ...	Almarin G. Miller.

OPELOUSAS DISTRICT—ROBERT J. HARP, P. E.

Opelousas, ...	James E. Bradley.
St. Landry Mission, ...	To be supplied.
" " Circuit, ...	Fisher T. Rawson.
Lafayette Circuit, ...	John S. Davis.
Vermillion Circuit, ...	Daniel S. Watkins.
New Iberia, ...	Joseph D. Adams.
Franklin, ...	Stephen J. Davies.
Teche Mission, ...	To be supplied.
Pattersonville, ...	Henry B. Frazee.
Grand Lake Mission, ...	To be supplied.
Thibodaux and Houma, ...	R. R. R. Alexander.
Napoleonville, ...	Jas. T. Fontaine.
Bayou Beouff, ...	Benj. F. Alexander.
	" " " Chaplain in Army.
Washington, ...	Benj. F. White.

ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT—A. E. GOODWYN, P. E.

Alexandria, ...	W. E. M. Linfield.
Rap. des Circuit, ...	Uriah Whaley, and
	one to be supplied.
Evergreen and Big Cane, ...	{ R. M. Crowson.
	{ F. White, Chaplain in Army.
Simmsport Circuit, ...	W. H. Frost, Chaplain in Army.
Calcasieu, ...	To be supplied.
Grand Cheniere, ...	S. J. Graves.
Centreville, ...	E. W. Yancey.
Columbia, ...	Robert T. Parish.
Ouachita, ...	{ P. M. Goodwyn.
	{ Chas. W. Hodge, Capt. in Army.
White Sulphur Springs, ...	Uriah Riley.
Trinity, ...	{ T. H. McClendon, H. L. Green.
	{ J. W. Hearne, in the Army.

BASTROP DISTRICT—JAMES A. IVY, P. E.

Bastrop,.....	Charles W. Carter.
Plantersville,.....	James L. Wright.
Bartholemew Mission,.....	John C. Faulk.
Jefferson,.....	Win. C. Haislip.
Ion Circuit,.....	Lewis A. Read.
Delhi,.....	To be supplied.
Carroll,.....	Anthony Cannon.

HOMER DISTRICT—SAMUEL S. SCOTT, P. E.

{ Homer,.....	Reynolds Trippett.
{ Homer Circuit,.....	John A. Miller.
Minden,.....	N. A. Cravens.
Farmerville,.....	W. D. Stayton.
Vernon,.....	Whitmel P. Kimble.
Winnfield Mission.....	Dabney P. Cullen.
Sparta Circuit,.....	John H. Boulton.
North Bossier,.....	Wm. H. Moss.
South ".....	Wm. D. Shea.
President of Homer College,.....	Baxter Clegg.

SHREVEPORT DISTRICT—SAM'L J. HAWKINS, P. E.

Shreveport,.....	To be supplied.
Caddo Circuit,.....	Philip L. Henderson.
DeSoto ".....	Jesse Fulton.
Mansfield ".....	Jephtha Landrum.
{ Pleasant Hill,.....	Samuel B. Suratt.
{ Natchitoches and Bayou Pierre Mission,.....	John Pipes.
Many Mission,.....	Alanson W. Moore.
Red River Circuit and Mission,.....	Robert Parvin.
Lake Bisteneau,.....	Thos. J. Upton.

TENSAS DISTRICT—THOS. B. WHITE, P. E.

Providence and Bunch's Bend,.....	Chas. J. Halberg.
Pecan Grove and Richmond,.....	To be supplied.
Wesley, Tensas and Jordan Chapel,.....	{ W. G. McGanghey.
	{ P. H. Dieffenwierth, Supernum'y.
Waterproof,.....	{ J. H. Stone.
	{ Anderson B. Fly, Supernum'y.
Concordia Mission,.....	Fielding Bell.
Sicily Island,.....	Robert A. New.
Harrisonburg,.....	To be supplied.
Winnsboro' and Boeuff Prairie,.....	John C. Pitts.
Bayou Macon,.....	{ Henry O. White.
	{ Thos. J. Lacy, Supernumerary.
Deer Creek,.....	John F. Winn.

SUPERANUATED PREACHERS.

Thos. Samford, David Kinnear, Henry C. Thweatt, Samuel Armstrong, Joel Sanders
and John C. Reed.